

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims set forth below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method of operating a fluid treatment device employing a non-bonded media for treating the fluid, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

containing the non-bonded media in an annular chamber located between an inner perforated cylinder and an outer perforated cylinder of said fluid treatment device;

passing an influent radially through the non-bonded media for treatment of the influent during a treatment operation; ~~and~~

passing a purge fluid down an upper portion of the inner perforated cylinder during a packing operation and then outwardly into the annular chamber to pack the non-bonded media in the annular chamber; and

during the packing operation passing the purge fluid through the outer perforated cylinder in a direction to carry with it particulate matter accumulated on the outside of said outer perforated cylinder.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 26, further including carrying said purge fluid out of said fluid treatment device at an outlet port different from an outlet port of a treated influent, defined by an affluent.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method of claim 26, further including passing the purge fluid during the purge operation through said outer perforated cylinder in a direction opposite a direction the influent passes through the outer perforated cylinder during the treatment operation.

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of claim 29, further including closing the upper portion of the inner perforated cylinder during the treatment operation.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of claim 29, further including using a ball located above an orifice in a plate located in the upper portion of said inner perforated cylinder for closing and opening the upper portion of said inner perforated cylinder.

Claim 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 32, further including capturing said case, said inner and outer perforated cylinders between said top and bottom end caps.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method of claim 26, further including increasing the velocity of the purge fluid passing through the outer ~~perorated~~ perforated cylinder as a function of the accumulation of the non-bonded media in the lower portion of the annular chamber during the purge operation.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the increased accumulation of the non-bonded media in the lower portion of the annular chamber during the purge operation reduces the area of the outer perforated cylinder through which the purge fluid can flow, thus increasing the velocity thereof.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method of claim 35, further including removing the residue on the outside of the outer perforated cylinder with greater efficiency using a greater velocity of the purge fluid.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The method of claim 26, ~~wherein said moving step includes~~ further including carrying out the packing operation after fluidizing the non-bonded media to dislodge particulate matter therefrom.

Claim 38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein an area of the outer perforated cylinder through which the purge fluid passes is reduced as the non-bonded media is packed in the lower portion of said annular chamber.

Claim 40 - 43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (new): The method of claim 1, further including using a purge fluid to force the non-bonded media from the upper portion of said annular chamber to the lower portion of the annular chamber during a purge operation, and carrying residue with the purge fluid during the purge operation for disposal of the residue.

Claim 45 (new): A method of operating a fluid treatment device employing a non-bonded media for treating the fluid, comprising:

- containing the non-bonded media in an annular chamber located between an inner perforated cylinder and an outer perforated cylinder of said fluid treatment device;

- passing an influent radially through the non-bonded media for treatment of the influent during a treatment operation;

- passing a purge fluid down an upper portion of the inner perforated cylinder during a packing operation and then outwardly into the annular chamber to pack the non-bonded media in the annular chamber; and

- using a top end cap with ports therein and providing a bottom end cap with ports therein, and using a case for said fluid treatment device where the top and bottom end caps cap the respective ends of said case, and wherein fluids are carried to and from said fluid treatment device only via the ports in said top and bottom end caps.

Claim 46 (new): A method of operating a fluid treatment device employing a non-bonded media for treating the fluid, comprising:

- containing the non-bonded media in an annular chamber located between an inner perforated cylinder and an outer perforated cylinder of said fluid treatment device;

- passing an influent radially through the non-bonded media for treatment of the influent during a treatment operation;

- passing a purge fluid down an upper portion of the inner perforated cylinder during a packing operation and then outwardly into the annular chamber to pack the non-bonded media in the annular chamber; and

- closing an upper portion of the inner perforated cylinder during the purge operation, and opening the upper portion of the inner perforated cylinder during a backwash operation.